Kashmiris question New Delhi's democratic narrative on Kashmir

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Anti-India protest demonstrations were held in several cities and towns of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) as well as in the federal capital on Monday with participants highlighting the glaring contradiction between India's repeated claims of being the 'largest democracy' and the denial of fundamental rights in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The protests, which coincided with India's Republic Day, were organised under the aegis of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), the AJK government and organisations representing Kashmiri refugees. A large number of citizens, government employees and refugees attended the demonstrations.

In Muzaffarabad, two separate protests were held at different locations. The first took place at Burhan Wani Chowk and was organised by Pasban-i-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir (PHJK). Participants, wearing black armbands, waved black flags alongside national and state flags, while chanting slogans calling for freedom and questioning India's democratic credentials.

Chants of "What do we want? Freedom" and "Calling India a democracy is an insult to democracy" continued to echo during the demonstration.

Addressing the gathering, PHJK chairman Uzair Ahmed Ghazali maintained that the political and human rights situation in occupied Kashmir was inconsistent with India's claims of being a democratic state.

He cited figures related to civilian deaths, arrests, detentions, injuries caused by pellet guns and the existence of unmarked graves since 1989, and called upon the United Nations to take practical steps towards resolving the Kashmir dispute. Around 100 yards away, another public gathering was held at the District Headquarters Complex under the auspices of the APHC and the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Commission (JKLC).

Among those present were former AJK prime minister and PML-N leader Raja Farooq Haider, APHC Secretary General Parvez Ahmed Shah, Mayor of Muzaffarabad Syed Sikandar Gillani, Secretary for Kashmir Cause and Archives Ansar Yaqoob, Muhajireen Numainda Forum president Ghulam Hassan Butt, as well as political and social activists, lawyers, journalists, women and civil society members.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Haider referred to remarks attributed to Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval about "avenging history" and described them as indicative of India's regional outlook.

He said that greater political unity was required to advance the Kashmiri cause towards success and to seek the region's accession to Pakistan. He reiterated his view that AJK served as a base for the movement, and that people on both sides of the Line of Control would continue their struggle to evict India from the occupied territory. APHC Secretary General Shah maintained that Pakistan was a benefactor of Kashmiris, supporting a just resolution of the Kashmir issue in line with their wishes, while India was an enemy of Kashmiris, maintaining illegal occupation of their motherland.

He asserted that all three regions of the erstwhile princely state wanted accession to Pakistan. Mr Shah rejected the impression that the Kashmir issue had ended, saying the freedom movement would continue until the people achieved their right to self-determination. He urged the international community to facilitate meaningful dialogue involving India, Pakistan and Kashmiri representatives to help ensure long-term peace in the region. Similar demonstrations were also held at district and tehsil headquarters in other parts of AJK.

Islamabad

In the federal capital, an anti-India demonstration was led by senior APHC leader Mahmood Ahmed Saghar.

Addressing participants, he acknowledged Pakistan's political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri cause and called for greater international engagement on the dispute. Referring to the resolution of other prolonged conflicts, Mr Saghar questioned why the Kashmir issue had remained unresolved despite decades of international discussion. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to continue raising the Kashmir issue at national and international forums.

Relaxed criteria draw strong response to CDA road project bids

Thirteen firms compete for Rs3.58bn project to link Margalla Avenue to M-1

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: As soon as the Capital Development Authority (CDA) relaxed the previously stringent criteria for awarding road contracts, an overwhelming number of construction firms applied for a new road project worth Rs3.58 billion.

This time, 13 companies submitted bids for the project, which involves the construction of a 2.7-kilometre portion of Margalla Avenue to ultimately link it with the Peshawar Motorway (M-1). Construction of an interchange on the GT Road is also part of the project.

Last year, the CDA had invited bids for five mega projects, including the Serena Interchange, Murree Road underpass, T Chowk Flyover, Shaheen Chowk and F-8 interchange, under strict criteria such as completion of mega projects within the shortest possible time.

As a result, only a few companies submitted bids and, out of the five projects, four worth billions of rupees were executed by a joint venture of two companies.

However, this time, after the criteria and fast-tracking requirements were removed, an overwhelming number of companies submitted their financial and technical bids. The technical bids were opened on Monday, while the financial bids will be opened in the coming days after evaluation of the technical bids.

Sources said healthy competition was expected for the project. "Whenever a large number of companies participate in the bidding process, CDA receives good rates, so we are expecting healthy competition," said a CDA officer.

Sources said the bidders include a joint venture of Habib Construction Services and ZKB, Maksons, Elum KDC JV, Ikan Sarco JV, New Khan Builders, NPI Construction Engineering, TTC-Zarrar JV, Umer Jan Pro Built JV, Wintoos Builders, Asad Contractors, Fast Track Construction, Highways Construction, and Kamran Kundi and Co.

Meanwhile, at the ending point of this road near the Sangjani Grid Station, within the limits of Islamabad where the CDA project will end, the National Highway Authority (NHA) is constructing another 2.5-kilometre portion of the road falling within the limits of Rawalpindi. This section will be linked with the M-1 near the AWT Housing Society.

The NHA has already awarded the contract for this portion, worth Rs4.1 billion, to the National Logistics Cell (NLC), which is executing the project.

The CDA project, once started, is expected to be completed within eight months. It is relevant to note that the project has remained under discussion for the past five years. The PTI government had also announced the start of the project but delayed it. Later, the CDA on several occasions announced that it would begin the project soon.

"Now there is no delay. Soon after the bidding process, we will move towards starting this project and will try to complete it before the stipulated time," said a CDA official.

The CDA will build a three-lane dual carriageway with two-lane service roads, including a cloverleaf interchange.

According to a CDA working paper, the maximum benefit from Margalla Avenue cannot be achieved until it is linked to the M-1.

The project comprises a six-lane road facility and aims to provide an alternative route for commuters travelling to Islamabad from the GT Road (N-5) and vice versa.

In 2021, then prime minister Imran Khan directed the CDA to develop the portion falling within Islamabad, while the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) was asked to construct the Rawalpindi section.

However, the subsequent PDM government assigned the Rawalpindi portion to the NHA. It is worth noting that Margalla Avenue from E-11 is the principal road, with a right of way of 600 feet. However, the CDA constructed the road on around 400 feet of the area from D-12 to the GT Road and has yet to decide on the acquisition of the remaining area and built-up structures falling along the alignment.

Fencing work on this portion is also pending.

Meanwhile, sources in the CDA said that besides this project, the civic agency is also planning to invite bids for the construction of the Kashmir Chowk underpass on Murree Road near the Islamabad Club.

NA body supports ICT ownership, management bill

ISLAMABAD: The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Housing and Works on Monday supported in principle 'The Islamabad Capital Territory Condominium (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2026' but deferred its consideration till the next meeting scheduled for February 9.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri to consider the bill along with other matters related to federal housing and development projects.

The committee members said they were not opposed to the bill and were supportive of it.However, they said in the absence of the federal minister and the federal secretary, detailed discussions were not possible.

"The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) lacks a legal framework for shared property ownership and management in multi-unit buildings. The proposed bill aims to regulate condominium ownership, transfer, and collective maintenance to ensure orderly urban development and protection of the owners' rights.

"The objective of the bill is to provide a comprehensive legal mechanism for individual ownership of condominium units, shared rights in common areas, establishment of an association of owners for collective management, and creation of a regulatory and dispute resolution framework," the statement of objects and reasons of the bill read.

"It shall extend to the entire ICT and applies to all condominium complexes and units. The enactment of this bill will formalise condominium ownership structures, enhance governance of shared properties, ensure accountability in management and align ICT's housing regulation with modern urban property practices," the statement said.

The committee took serious note of the repeated absence of the federal secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works. In view of the continued absence, the committee recommended raising the matter on the floor of the house and issued a letter of displeasure, emphasising the need for regular and timely attendance at all future meetings.

The committee observed that the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) had submitted outdated data, which was insufficient for informed review, and directed FGEHA to submit revised and up-to-date information in the next meeting.

The committee further directed the Ministry of Housing and Works to provide a detailed list of its properties in Karachi in the next meeting.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Anjum Aqeel Khan, Ibrar Ahmad, Haji Rasool Bux Chandio, Dr Darshan, Samina Khalid Ghurki (via Zoom), and Syed Sami Ul Hasan Gilani (via Zoom). Senior officers were also present, including the additional secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works, along with officers of its attached departments. — Staff Reporter

New spell of snowfall begins in Murree, twin cities to receive more rain

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: A new spell of snowfall started in Murree on Monday night, while the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad received light rain with Met Office forecasting more rain.

A Met official told Dawn that four inches of snow had been recorded in Murree and the snowfall will continue till Tuesday evening. He said that light rain was recorded in the twin cities and the wet spell will continue till Tuesday evening with occasional gaps.

He said a westerly wave is affecting most western and upper parts of the country and likely to persists in upper parts till Tuesday.

"Cloudy weather with intermittent rain-wind/thunderstorm (snow over hills) is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad, northeast Punjab and northeast Balochistan.

Heavy rain with moderate to heavy snowfall is also likely at isolated places in Kashmir and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Cold and dry weather is likely in other parts of the country," he said.

On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Murree Agha Zaheer Shirazi, officials and personnel of all the concerned agencies were present in the field and performing their duties.

Heavy, machinery is being used to remove snow, while salt is being sprinkled on various highways to prevent slippage. The traffic police were implementing a special management plan to keep traffic flowing so that any kind of obstruction or accident can be avoided.

The deputy commissioner said that in view of the forecast of snowfall by the Meteorological Department, the district administration was fully mobilised and the safety of the local population as well as tourists was the top priority.

He asked the tourists traveling to Murree to get information about the weather situation and strictly follow the advisory issued by the district administration. He added that tourists should fully cooperate with the administration to ensure a safe journey.

However, he said that there was no ban on the entry of vehicles "but we will see the intensity of the snowfall and then will decide to impose a ban." He said electricity was fully restored in Murree and Kotli Sattian.

Acquittal of convict's mother in Sara Inam murder case challenged

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: A division bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday issued notices in an appeal challenging the acquittal of Samina Shah, mother of convicted murderer Shahnawaz Amir, in the Sara Inam murder case, and sought responses from the parties.

The bench, comprising Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Raja Inaam Ameen Minhas, also issued notices on the application seeking cancellation of Samina Shah's acquittal and adjourned the hearing until February 17.

During the hearing, Raja Rizwan Abbasi Advocate, representing the petitioner, argued that the appeal against Samina Shah's acquittal should be decided first as she was present at the house at the time of the murder.

Justice Minhas asked what role Samina Shah had played in the incident. Justice Arbab Mohammad Tahir observed that she had called the police after the occurrence, to which the counsel confirmed, saying that she had indeed made the call.

The bench then asked who else was present in the house at the time. The petitioner's counsel replied that domestic staff were also present.

Raja Rizwan Abbasi submitted that he wished to argue the acquittal application first, but the court observed that such arguments could have a bearing on the main appeal.

After hearing the initial submissions, the court issued notices to the respondents and deferred the hearing to February 17.

Sara Inam was murdered in September 2022. Her husband, Shahnawaz Amir, was later convicted by the trial court.

PEOPLES STEEL MILLS LTD.
Javedan Nagar, Manghopir, Karachi

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from interested Parties / Authorized Agents as per following details:

Sr. #	Ref. No.	Description	Qty.	Submission Date
1	LP-55/ PR-1881-26	SULPHURIC ACID (COMMERCIAL GRADE) Offer on F.O.R basis.	40 MT.	10.02.2026
2	FP-33/ PR-1788-26	FREQUENCY DRIVE, COMMUNICATION CABLE & COMMUNICATION MODULE Offer on F.O.R / CFR basis.	31 Nos.	11.02.2026
3	FP-33/ PR-26116-26	HIGH TEMPERATURE FURNACE INTERIOR MONITORING CAMERA Offer on F.O.R / CFR basis.	01 No.	12.02.2026
4	FP-SAA/ PR-1724-26	MECHANICAL HOT WORKING TONG For Ingot Lifting Offer on F.O.R / CFR basis.	01 No.	17.02.2026
5	FP-88/ PR-26005-26	RING ROLLING MACHINE (VERTICAL TYPE) Offer on F.O.R / CFR basis.	01 No.	24.02.2026

Tender(s) must be submitted on the submission date by 15:00hrs and the opening will be carried out at 15:30hrs on the respective submission date for serial No. 01 to 04 and serial No. 05 must be submitted on the submission date by 11:00hrs and the opening will be carried out at 11:30hrs. Interested bidder may obtain complete tender documents containing specifications and terms & conditions on payment of Tender Fee Rs.500/- (non-refundable) against each tender through Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of **M/s. Peoples Steel Mills Ltd, Karachi** against a written request on their Company's letterhead. Companies wishing to receive documents through courier must add extra Rs.100/- in shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft.

CORRIGENDUM

Reference tender published in the "Daily Dawn" and the "Daily Jang" Karachi on dated: **29.12.2025** and **13.01.2026**. Please note that opening date for the following tender has been re-scheduled as under, while all other terms and conditions of tender will remain the same.

Ref. No.	Description	Submission Date	Revised Submission Date
LP-22/ PR-26360-25	GRID-TIED SOLAR POWER PLANT (EPC basis) WITH INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING Power Capacity: 2MWp Offer on F.O.R basis.	29.01.2026	**12.02.2026**
FP-33/ PR-22442-26	STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIALS Offer on F.O.R / CFR basis.	27.01.2026	**17.02.2026**

NOTE: The Tender Notice is also available at **www.ppra.org.pk** and **www.psmltd.com.**

GM (PROCUREMENT)
PEOPLES STEEL MILLS LTD.
JAVEDAN NAGAR, MANGHOPIR, KARACHI – PAKISTAN
Tel. No. 36770120 Fax No.36770112, PABX. 36770126-29 (Ext. 1501)

APPOINTMENT OF 1X SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ON CONTRACT BASIS

1. Regional Directorate Anti Narcotics Force Sindh requires the services of energetic and hardworking advocate for lower courts and High Court at Sukkur station as Special Public prosecutor purely on contract basis for contesting the cases of ANF and for rendition of legal advice / Opinion to the department. Detail is as under:-

No. of Vacancy	Details	Offering Retainer Ship
01 (One)	Special Public Prosecutor/ Advocate shall appear and conduct proceedings under the provisions of CNSA 1997, Prevention of smuggling Act 1977, Anti Money Laundering Act 2010 or any other law for the time being enforced before Special Courts (CNS), Anti-Smuggling courts. Tribunals appellant courts, high , supreme Court and any other court on behalf of ANF and shall not appear as defense Counsel against ANF in any case/ appeal/ application.	Rs 125,000/-

2. The Advocates fulfilling following criteria can apply:-

a.	**The candidate shall be person who is citizen of Pakistan.**
b.	**Candidate shall be enrolled as an advocate High Court having valid license, however, preference will be given to advocate having 05x years of experience in practice as an advocate High Court**
c.	**The candidate shall be a practicing advocate of High Court having valid license with experience in legal matters preferably dealing with CNS Act 1997, Drug/Criminal cases, PSA 1977, Assets, AMLA 2010 Cases and service matters.**
d.	**Special preference will be given to the candidates having experience of contesting department/organization cases in lower Court / High court.**
e.	**The candidate must have knowledge regarding psychotropic / psychoactive substances, control / illicit substances (included in UN convention / ANF Schedule), Assets cases in view of CNSA and AMLA 2010.**
f.	**The Advocate who worked previously with the department, and during such period their contract was terminated or they resigned are not eligible to apply for the post.**
g.	**The candidate shall neither have been guilty of misconduct during the professional career nor convicted of any offence of moral turpitude or dismissed from Government Service or declared as insolvent.**
h.	**The candidates having permanent residence and office at Sukkur**

3. For Existing posts only short listed candidate on the basis of their qualification and experience especially in Narcotics/Assets (AMLA Cases)/Service Matters will be called for interview.
4. The Selection will be made purely on merit.
5. Interviews will be held at Regional Directorate Anti Narcotics Force Sindh G-13, Block -8, Khayaban E Jami Clifton Karachi. **NO TA/DA will be admissible.**
6. The Candidates are required to send their applications along with CVs duly supported by photocopy of CNIC, relevant documents, testimonials and Bar Council Card on or before **30-01-2026** at the following address:-

Regional Directorate Anti Narcotics Force Sindh
G-13, Block-8, Khayaban-e-Jami Clifton Karachi
PH: 021-99204984 & 021-99204986

PID K-2556/25

KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS LTD.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONCRETE FLOORING AT EXTENDED AREA OF DRY DOCK NO. I - KS&EW

1. The Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works Limited (KS&EW) invites sealed bids on "Single Stage - Two Envelope" procedure for project "Concrete Flooring at Extended Area of Dry Dock No. I - KS&EW" from eligible national constructors/ firms, having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category C-3 or above.
2. Interested firms may obtain Bidding Documents on a written request and on payment of Non-refundable amount of Pak Rupees Six Thousand (Rs.6,000/=) in the form of Pay Order, issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan drawn in favor of "Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works". Bidding documents may be collected from office of the GM (S&CW) KS&EW, West Wharf, Dockyard Road, Karachi from 0900 hours to 1600 hours on working days.
3. Bids must be accompanied with Bid Security in favor of "Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Limited (KS&EW)", amounting to Pak Rupees Five Hundred Thousand only (Rs.500,000/-) in the form of Pay Order, issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan, valid for a period of 28 days, beyond the Bid Validity date issued. Bids without bid security will be rejected.
4. The bids are to be submitted in the office of GM(S&CW) Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Limited (KS&EW) by **17th February 2026** at 1100 hours. The Technical Bids will be opened the same day, at 1130 hours, in the presence of bidders representatives, who wish to attend. The Financial Bids of the technically-qualified firms will be opened on the date and time intimated in due course. The Financial Bids of the technically - rejected bidders will be returned unopened.
5. KS&EW reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids, as per Rule-33 of PPRA Rules - 2004. Bids received after due date and time shall not be entertained.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Infra Structure Upgradation of KS&EW
Tel: + 92-21-9921 4045 (Ext #: 323)